

10/581343

Attorney's Docket No. 1011350-000373

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Hiroshima Fujimaru et al.) Group Art Unit:
Application No.:) Examiner:
Filed: June 2, 2006) Confirmation No.:
For: PARTICULATE WATER RETAINING)
MATERIAL FOR CULTIVATING PLANT)
HAVING WATER ABSORBENT RESIN)
AS MAIN COMPONENT)

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: June 2, 2006

By:


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Substitute for form 1449/PTO & 1449B/PTO

Complete if Known

10/581343

FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
 (use as many sheets as necessary)

Application

Filing Date June 2, 2006

First Named Inventor Hirotama FUJIMARU et al.

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket No. 1011350-000373

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
	4,587,308		Makita et al.	05-06-1986
	6,286,254		Obonai et al.	09-11-2001

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	STATUS						
					Translation	Partial Translation	Eng. Lang. Summary	International Search Report	IPER	Abstract	Cited in Spec
	* WO 98/49252	A1	WIPO	11-05-1998				X			
	* 9-78050	A	Japan	03-25-1997				X			
	* 0 945 052	A1	Europe	09-29-1999				X			
	* 2000-139208	A	Japan	05-23-2000							X
	* 62-273283	A	Japan	11-27-1987							X

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

* Copy Attached

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.